

Candidacy Committee Report to Synod Council

The Candidacy Committee met November 7-9, 2019. Prior to the Committee's meeting the Lutheran Formation Experience (LFE) team met to discuss the future of this program. In the past, the Candidacy Committee has provided opportunities for candidates to have monthly classes that would allow non-traditional candidates to fulfill their Lutheran requirements. Currently, because of the number of candidates requiring these types of classes is minimal and because of the hope of the Lutheran cohort being established at Candler School of Theology in Atlanta, as well as the various online opportunities offered by ELCA seminaries for candidates to get these requirements met the LFE team made the decision to forgo LFE classes for the time being.

The Candidacy Committee met with a variety of candidates during our two days of panels. A large number of panels were what are called "Developmental" panels, that allow the candidate to update the Candidacy Committee with where they are in the Candidacy process. Mainly these "Developmental" panels happen because a candidate has had to slow their process down or because they have made significant changes to their original candidacy plan. Because of the number of "Developmental" panels and the expense incurred to bring candidates to Atlanta to hold these panels, the Candidacy Committee decided to limit the number of Developmental panels offered during the normal scheduled Candidacy Committee's meeting and offer Developmental panels via video conferences as a candidate needs them.

During this weekend the Candidacy Committee Entranced Isaac Taylor (Word and Sacrament) and Adam Waddell (Word and Sacrament). Both of these candidates are beginning their seminary work. We endorsed Judy Bullock (Word and Sacrament), Anna Hurley (Word and Sacrament) and Taylor Burton-Edwards (Taylor was ordained in another Christian Tradition and is a Word and Sacrament candidate). Endorsement means they are about half way through the process. We also approved Emilie Case (Word and Sacrament) and Nyahaley Labor (Word and Sacrament through TEEM). Both of these candidates are now ready to begin the call process to be ordained. We also approved Katie Christie (Word and Sacrament), Katie is ordained in another Christian Tradition and so once she receives a call to an ELCA congregation she will be brought onto the ELCA roster.

At this meeting the Candidacy Committee received the resignation of Dr. Amy Vehec due to family commitments that make it difficult for her to continue to serve. A replacement for Dr. Vehec is being sought at this time and her candidates have been reassigned to other members. With the departure of Deacon Jeanette Burgess from the Synod Staff, Pastor Jill Henning and Ms. Melissa Fuller-Sims are working on a chart of who to contact for various aspects of Candidacy and hopefully that will be posted and sent to Candidates by the middle of January.